Computerization of village panchayats

2696. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee on Information Technology has recommended for computerization of 2.5 lakh village panchayats;

(b) if so, the details of village panchayats which have been computerized so far; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the strategic importance of computerization at the Gram Panchayat level, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) had constituted an Expert Group in June 2007 under the Chairmanship of Director General, National Informatics Centre to assess the Information Technology (IT) programmes which are in operation or which could be taken up for implementation in future, to recommend on the most cost-effective technologies for reaching IT to the Gram Panchayats, the use of IT for effectively building capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions through distance learning; and the cost implications of the recommendations. The Expert Group submitted its Report on 17.01.2008.

As per the information given by the States, the number of Village Panchayats computerized so far is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Village level computerization has been done using various sources of funding such as grants of Central and State Finance Commissions, internal resources of Panchayats etc. Under the erstwhile Information and Technology component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, States were given grants for computerization of Panchayats, details of which are given in the following table:-

Amount (Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Goa	-	1.00
2	Sikkim	2.00	3.04
3	Rajasthan	-	2.00
4.	Puducherry	-	0.87
5	West Bengal	-	2.60
6.	Orissa	-	1.00
7.	Kerala	-	2.52

Statement

Computers provided at Village/Panchayats

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total number of village Panchayats in the State	Number of village Panchayats where some sort of Computing facility is available
1.	Lakshadweep	10	10
2.	Rajasthan	9184	1114
3.	Orissa	6234	150
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	67	67
5.	Tripura	513	100
6.	Goa	189	189
7.	Sikkim	163	157
8.	Uttar Pradesh	51976	Nil
9.	Daman & Diu	14	14
10.	Chhattisgarh	9768	Nil
11.	Karnataka	5658	5658
12.	Kerala	999	969

Note:- Information from remaining States is being collected.

Extension of NREGS

2697. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is ready to remove the cap of 100 days as well as one person per family norm in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ARWSP in Andhra Pradesh

2698. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages covered under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the total number of villages yet to be covered under ARWSP in the State; and